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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

5-7-1-538 REC-538

Subject: ~~source of arms~~ **SECRET** Report No:

of the British in Egypt  
building owned by [redacted] in  
May & in al-Mansura.  
Place Acquired: Cairo, Egypt Date of Information: 1-1-1948  
Evaluation: P-3 Para 1, 4 Date Acquired: 23 August 1948  
M-3 Para 2, 3 Date of Report: 28 August 1948  
Source: [redacted] Para 1, 4  
[redacted] (Para 1, 4)  
[redacted] (Para 2, 3)

1. On 1 August 1947, the Cairo police in a series of quick and widespread raids, seized large stores of arms and munitions easily in the basement and storage spaces of buildings occupied by ~~Abdullah ibn Ayyub~~ and his retainers. The buildings were located in the district of Darb al-Ahmar, a suburb of Cairo. So large were the quantities of explosives involved that it took from four to five days to transfer them to government storage.

2. The seizures were in line with a policy adopted several months ago of confiscating supplies of arms and munitions in the possession of private individuals and groups. The extent to which use of explosives for terroristic purposes could endanger individual life and threaten public order itself was dramatically illustrated during the last six months by such varied events as the bombing of the house of Abd al-Karim al-Husseini; the accidental detonation within Ishaq al-Samman's meeting; loss of explosives stored therein; and the bombing of the Jewish-owned department stores Cicurel and Orao. (Although the latter was officially attributed to a land mine dropped by an unseen, unheard Jewish plane travelling at an estimated speed of 150 miles per hour at an estimated altitude of 8000 feet ()), foreign observers generally, and Egyptians when speaking candidly, attributed the explosion to a bomb placed in position by persons unknown or at least thus far unpublicized. The wave of savage and frequently mortal attacks by mobs upon Jews and others thought to be Jews, following the Cicurel bombing, while emotionally satisfying to the mobsters, was diplomatically embarrassing to the Egyptian Government.)

3. It had been easy during the latter part of the war, and during the months thereafter, to acquire sizeable quantities of abandoned munitions from the Western desert. Political and actionist groups were known to be acquiring such arms. As civil security in Palestine deteriorated during the early months of 1948, a miscellany of private groups in Egypt began almost openly to amass stores of arms for the ostensible purpose of rendering assistance to the embattled Arabs of Palestine.

4. That arms so acquired might ultimately be used against the regime in Egypt or at least in a manner detrimental to public order, was appreciated by the government. A series of ministerial decrees and orders were issued imposing penalties for the unlicensed possession of certain types of firearms and

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explosives. It is now reported that a military proclamation will soon be issued, making the unlicensed possession of explosives a felony, rather than a misdemeanor. Persons accused of violating the proclamation will be tried before military courts.

(( Cairo Note: Although the press generally carried stories of the discovery of arms and munitions, only Ahmed Sa'ad of 11 August is known to have stated that the stores were found on premises occupied by the Grand Mufti. British security sources have informed Brewster that they also have received information that the raids were made upon houses of the Mufti. S-2 ))

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